

HOUSE BILL 1097
By DeBerry L

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to early mathematics placement testing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated part:

Section 49-6-8201. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Early Mathematics Placement Testing Act of 2003".

Section 49-6-8202. As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Program" means Early Mathematics Placement Testing Program; and

(2) "Participating colleges or universities" means all Tennessee public postsecondary education institutions and any private college or university in this state that chooses to participate in the Early Mathematics Placement Testing Program.

Section 49-6-8203.

(a) The Early Mathematics Placement Testing Program is created to decrease the number of high school graduates in this state who require remediation in mathematics upon enrollment in postsecondary education

institutions by providing information primarily to high school sophomores and juniors statewide regarding their level of mathematics knowledge in relation to standards required for community and technical college and university level mathematics courses early enough for students to address deficiencies while still in high school.

(b) The testing program shall be a computer website-based program that incorporates a variety of diagnostic mathematics tests to identify knowledge and skills needed for postsecondary education courses.

(c) The testing program shall be developed and conducted by a public university. The Tennessee higher education commission, with the advice of the department of education, shall develop a process to solicit, review, and select a proposal for the development and implementation of the computer website-based testing program. The higher education commission shall approve the location of the program at a public university no later than January 1, 2004.

(d) The program shall be available to all interested Tennessee public and private high school students in grades ten (10) and eleven (11). Student participation in the program shall be voluntary, and program test scores shall not be:

(1) Placed on a student's high school transcript; or

(2) Used by postsecondary education institutions in the admissions process.

(e) The computer website testing program shall be available to all Tennessee residents for evaluation of an individual's mathematics knowledge and skills.

(f) The program shall encourage the active participation of all Tennessee public and private high schools.

(g) The computer website testing program shall:

(1) Develop or adopt appropriate tests to determine the level of mathematics knowledge of high school students in relation to the standards of placement tests given at the community and technical colleges and undergraduate public universities. In the development or adoption of the tests, consideration shall be given to the program of studies and the minimum requirements for high school graduation and the alignment of these standards with postsecondary course standards;

(2) Develop a structure to permit each participating student the opportunity to take the computer-based test at school in the presence of school personnel or at the student's home in the presence of his or her parents or guardian;

(3) Score the completed tests and provide the test scores and diagnostic information on a student's knowledge and skills electronically to the student and the high school upon completion of the test in the form of electronic mail or printable files or screens;

(4) Provide the following information for up to three (3) participating postsecondary education institutions specified by the student as a possible college choice:

(A) The student's test score;

(B) A list of mathematics courses required for the student's intended major at a postsecondary education institution;

(C) A list of any remedial courses the student might be required to take based on the student's current level of mathematics knowledge as demonstrated on the test;

(D) The estimated cost of the remedial courses the student might be required to take; and

(E) The high school courses and the specific mathematical concepts or functions a student should consider studying in order to address any deficiencies;

(5) Encourage the chair of the mathematics department or the academic dean at each of the participating postsecondary education institutions specified by the student as a possible college choice to send a personalized letter to the student that:

(A) Encourages the student to take additional high school mathematics courses to address deficiencies in mathematics knowledge; or

(B) Congratulates the student who does well on the test for his or her achievement and encourages continued study in mathematics; and

(6) Develop and implement a strategy to raise awareness and encourage participation in the program, targeting high school students, parents, high school faculty and administrators, mathematics departments or faculty at postsecondary education institutions, and the general public.

(h) The department of education shall provide assistance as necessary to the Early Mathematics Placement Testing Program to implement the provisions of this act.

(i) The public university that conducts the testing program shall submit an annual report to the state board of education and the higher education commission regarding its activities and the effects of the program on levels of remediation required by participating students.

SECTION 2. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.